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BEGLOV SEES CREDIBILITY GAP IN ARMS TALKS

LD272251 Moscow World Service in English 2010 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Spartak Beglov commentary]

[Text] The general secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party and president, Konstantin Chernenko, has reaffirmed the Soviet desire to create a climate of trust among nations. He made a statement to that effect at a meeting with the Italian foreign minister, Giulio Andreotti. Moscow views such a climate as the most important precondition for productive talks on arms limitation and reduction and for returning East-West relations to a course of easing tensions.

Western policies with regard to curbing the nuclear arms race and preventing nuclear war have been losing credibility. The credibility gap is due to the insincere approach adopted by the NATO governing circles to both nuclear arms limitation talks and the Eastern initiatives concerning measures aimed at lowering the level of military confrontation. Moscow has dismissed the charges that it is opposed to talks on nuclear arms reduction in Europe on the ground that the Geneva talks on the issue were discontinued. It was not the Soviet stand but the obstacles created to the talks by the deployment in Europe of American nuclear missiles that doomed the talks to failure.

The sincerity of the Western pronouncements about a readiness to resume the talks at any moment can only be proved by actions leading to the restoration of the situation that existed before the deployment of the American missiles. The United States and NATO have given no sign of being prepared to undertake such actions, and that leads one to question their sincerity. A lack of sincerity on one side arouses distrust on the other.

NATO has always banked on intimidation and fear. It has always pressed for superiority backed up by new arms systems and doctrines of first nuclear strike rather than initiatives aimed at lowering the level of military confrontation. The Soviet Union and its allies proceed from their conviction that top priority must be given to moves that instill a hope and confidence in the future in the people and provide guarantees against nuclear war. As you may know the Warsaw Treaty countries have advanced proposals for reaching a fundamental solution to the problem of renouncing the use of both conventional and nuclear weapons between the two military alliance. These proposals were followed by the proposals of the Soviet leader, Konstantin Chernenko, for introducing a certain code of rules that would govern relations between the nuclear powers and prevent nuclear war. These proposals lay a wider and firmer base of the East's initiative and are another test of the sincerity of the West.

Simple and at the same time badly needed as they are, these proposals could be a first step on the road to a climate of trust. But Washington has ignored the Soviet leader's proposals. Nor has NATO responded to the Soviet Union's unilateral pledge never to be the first to use nuclear weapons. Whether the Western leaders want it or not, the further they will remove themselves from the crucial issues of human survival the more reason they give for believing that they are denying the other side its right to equal security and that they are still thinking in terms of war and intimidation. The Soviet Union and its allies have made it abundantly clear that they will not be lured into a farce of talks false and insincere from beginning to end. They made it abundantly clear that they are prepared to take part in meaningful talks provided the other side removes the obstacles it created and shows an equal desire to create a climate of trust.

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RESULTS OF GENEVA DISARMAMENT SESSION ASSESSED

PM011452 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 84 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent V. Kuznetsov dispatch "From the International Forums": "Results of the First Round"]

[Text] Geneva -- The first part of the Disarmament Conference session is over. Its plenary sittings and working group meetings have shown that the NATO countries, under pressure from the Reagan administration, have hardened their positions on the basic issues on the agenda -- the prevention of nuclear war, nuclear disarmament, the banning of nuclear tests, and a whole range of programs connected with the banning of chemical weapons.

This hardening, and the unwillingness to take into consideration the interests of other participants in the conference, were covered up by bombastic statements from U.S. delegation head L. Fields about a desire for "intensive and sincere work" to implement the tasks of the conference. The United States and the other NATO countries needed verbal hypocrisy at Geneva's Palais des Nations in order to divert the international public's attention from the course of stepping up the arms race and the West's attempts to use the Geneva talks as an umbrella for its militarist preparations.

Despite this obstructionist position by the West, the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries, as well as a number of developing states, made new efforts to achieve progress at the conference. The Soviet delegation, its head V.L. Israelyan declared at the last sitting, constantly proceeded from the desire to take into consideration the security interests of all states and observe the principle of equality and identical security, which offers the sole basis for conducting talks with hope of success.

During the current session, V.L. Israelyan stressed, the Soviet Union put forward new initiatives. The delegates' attention was drawn to the proposal put forward by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Cental Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the elaboration of norms governing relations between nuclear powers.

The Soviet delegation confirmed its interest in the speediest solution of one of the priority questions of modern international politics -- the banning of nuclear tests. Widespread interest was generated by the draft treaty submitted by the Soviet Union to ban the use of force in outer space and from space with respect to the earth. This Soviet proposal would help prevent an arms race in space. An important step would be taken along the path of elimination of the threat of war and of disarmament by implementing the range of measures that aim to curb the arms race in the seas and oceans. The Soviet Union's extensive proposals on this question were brought to the conference participants' notice.

The conference has ended the first round of its work. Speaking to journalists, Soviet delegation head V.L. Israelyan expressed the hope that the world public's concern for the fate of peace, common sense, and logic will provide a guiding principle for all the participants in the conference and will create a basis for constructive dialogue for resolving the problems of universal and total disarmament.

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ILICHEV COMMENTS ON USSR-GDR MISSILE AGREEMENT

LD151411 Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] The Soviet Defense Ministry reports that the Governments of the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic have agreed about the siting on the territory of the German Democratic Republic an extra number of Soviet tactical nuclear missiles of extended range as a retaliatory measures [as heard] to the on-going deployment of American missiles in Western Europe. We have a comment from Viktor Ilichev, and this is what he writes:

It is stressed in the Defense Ministry release that these measures are forced. They will always be kept within the strict limits that are necessary for the maintenance of a military equilibrium between the Warsaw Treaty Organization and NATO. These measures have the objective of neutralizing the concrete danger the new American missiles pose to the people of the socialist countries.

It was the United States, not the Soviet Union, that created the problem of nuclear confrontation in Europe and in the whole world. I may remind you that back in 1946 the USSR tabled in the United Nations a draft convention banning the development, production stockpiling and, what is most important, the use of nuclear weapons. The United States rejected the proposal in the hope of making use of its nuclear monopoly at the time to achieve world domination. I can also give you a reminder that it was the United States that shortly after the Second World War brought to Europe the first atom bombs with which it equipped about 100 American B-29 bombers sited in Britain. Again, it was the United States that deployed in Western Europe hundreds of other nuclear delivery systems, aircraft- and land- and sea-based missiles. Later, the nuclear arsenal of the United States in Europe was augmented and considerably increased by nuclear delivery vehicles of France and Britain. The first-strike potential of the United States and NATO as a whole rose from year to year. A special role is given in it today to the nuclear missiles Pershing II's and Tomahawks, which are being moved right to the doorstep of the socialist countries.

The USSR has repeatedly urged the United States to rid Europe of nuclear weapons, both medium-range and tactical. At the Geneva talks the Soviet Union also put forward compromise options, renouncing the siting in Europe of nuclear weapons, both medium-range and tactical. At the Geneva talks the Soviet Union also put forward compromise options, renouncing the siting in Europe of any new medium-range nuclear delivery vehicles and reducing all the existing ones by roughly two-thirds. The USSR pledged readiness to keep in its European zone 140 medium-range missiles -- that is, fewer missiles than France and Britain have for NATO. In this case the number of warheads on the missiles would be equal and the level of nuclear standoff in Europe would drop substantially. However, the Reagan administration turned down all these constructive proposals. By starting the deployment of new missiles it wrecked the Geneva talks.

Understandably, in these conditions the USSR and other socialist countries were forced to take the necessary measures to strengthen their defense capability to maintain the balance of forces which is, objectively, the guarantee of peace.

We are against a military standoff; we are opposed to an arms race. This is the matter of our policy. I may remind you that nearly 2 years ago the USSR pledged not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. And another reminder, the Warsaw Treaty nations have been proposing persistently to the NATO countries to agree on renunciation of the use of nuclear and any other weapons in general against one another. A few days ago, this important peace initiative was further developed in an appeal of the Warsaw Treaty nations to the NATO states.

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GDR'S MBFR DELEGATE CRITICIZES NATO PROPOSAL

LD241341 Moscow TASS in English 1324 GMT May 84

[Text] Vienna May 24 (TASS -- A regular round of negotiations of representatives of 19 states on mutual reduction of troops and armaments in central Europe began here today. Speaking at the plenary meeting, head of the GDR delegation Ambassador Andre Wieland noted the responsibility of the United States and its NATO allies for the heightening of tension in the international situation and undermining of confidence in the relations between states, including between participants in the Vienna negotiations. Prospects for an end to the arms race -- both nuclear and conventional -- and improvement of the situation are opened up by the joint positions and concrete proposals of the Warsaw Treaty member-states which were set forth once again recently in the communique on the meeting of the Foreign Ministers' Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member-states in Budapest.

The proposals of socialist countries which were submitted in Vienna in 1983 provide a realistic possibility for overcoming futile arguments and for starting practically reducing the level of military confrontation in central Europe. But the Western side, said Andre Wieland, did not display readiness to give a businesslike and constructive reply to those proposals.

The GDR representative subjected to well-argumented criticism the proposal of the United States and NATO countries dated April 19 this year, and showed that it does not change the obstructionist character of the Western stand at the negotiations. This proposal does not promote mutually acceptable solution of questions, it does not help overcome stagnation at negotiations. That proposal raises new obstacles and even more hampers the bringing of positions of the sides nearer.

The Warsaw Treaty member states, said Andre Wieland, are confident that their proposals ensure, as before, a proper foundation for realistic accords, aimed at attaining a reasonable compromise, to the benefit of all participants in the Vienna negotiations, in the interests of security in Europe as a whole. Revision by the West of its stand in accordance with these aims would make it possible to open up favourable prospects for the Vienna negotiations.

PRAVDA ON BANNING ANTI-SATELLITE WEAPONS

LD241638 Moscow TASS in English 1616 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Moscow May 24 TASS -- The newspaper PRAVDA publishes in its May 25 issue an article entitled "Anti-Satellite Weapons Must Be Banned." Following is the full text of the article:

The question of preventing militarisation of outer space is moving ever more into the centre of world public attention. For that, there are extremely weighty reasons. The matter is not only that space, should it become an arena of military competition, wuuld be turned into a source of constant mortal threat to all of mankind. Launching strike weapons into space would have most baneful consequences for the limitation of armaments in other fields too. He who is seeking to open outer space for his weapons is not simply creating a new channel of the arms race -- he wants to undermine prospects for stopping it altogether.

Our country, which blazed a trail into space for mankind, consistently comes out in favour of accords that would constitute a reliable obstacle to the penetration of weapons into outer space. General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Konstantin U. Chernenko stressed that "the Soviet Union has sought for many years already an accord directed at preventing the transfer of the arms race into outer space.

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